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Agenda item 41

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith a press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 9 February 1999 concerning the meeting of the Arbitration Tribunal for Brcko in Vienna (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would have this letter and its annex published as a document of the General Assembly under item 41 of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

(Signed) Vladislav Jovanovic
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex

**Press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Yugoslavia issued on 9 February 1999**

Regarding the meeting of the Arbitration Tribunal for Brcko in Vienna, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that the activities undertaken by the authorities of Republika Srpska and by the international community with respect to the Brcko issue have made it possible to make progress. The previous extension of the deadlines for reaching a final arbitration award has been seen by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as necessary for the creation of conditions for a lasting and just solution of this important issue, in line with the letter and spirit of the Dayton/Paris agreement. In this respect, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the view that the subject matter of the arbitration procedure and the arbitration award is to establish the inter-entity boundary line near Brcko in a way that would guarantee the unity of the territory of Republika Srpska and recognize the fact that Brcko is an integral part of that territory.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that this vital issue for Republika Srpska should be settled in a principled manner, by strict compliance with the Dayton/Paris agreement and respect for the legitimate interests of Republika Srpska, which is an essential prerequisite for final success of the Dayton/Paris peace agreement.



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Agenda items 39, 40 and 84
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Permanent Observer
of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I write to you with regard to the letter addressed to you from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations on 1 February 1999 (S/1999/105). The content of that letter, which follows a recent disturbing pattern of repetitive distortions and false statements, is regrettable and does not qualify a response at a time when the whole world is well aware of the reality of the state of the peace process and the responsibility the Israeli Government bears in this regard, especially the freezing of the Wye River Memorandum. This pattern of distortion has reached a point of absurdity and it would be fruitless to become entangled in any sort of rebuttal. Indeed, the response to the above-mentioned letter can be found in the clear positions reaffirmed by the international community as demonstrated recently by Member States through the resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 40 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations



I would like to underline, once again, that the present violation occurred following the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It is yet another example of Turkey's unwillingness to comply with the provisions of those resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

A/53/825

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**General Assembly
Security Council**

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning the plight of the Lebanese detainees being held in Israeli prisons and in the detention camps established by the Israeli occupation authorities inside Lebanese territory, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter from the Follow-up Committee for the support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons addressed to Mr. Selim Hoss, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon (see annex). The letter provides information on the situation of the Lebanese being held in Israeli prisons and in the detention camps inside occupied Lebanese territory that are under the supervision of the Israeli occupation forces, with particular reference to their state of health, to the presence among them of juveniles and women as well as persons who are elderly and infirm and to the repression, torture and neglect they must endure at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities in violation of the relevant international covenants and all humanitarian principles.

I must here recall the improper decision adopted by the Supreme Court of Israel on 4 March 1998, whereby the Israeli authorities were granted permission to hold Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps without trial and to keep them as hostages and as a bargaining chip. This constitutes a flagrant violation of all the relevant international covenants and conventions and, in particular, of the fourth Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocol I, which require civilians under foreign occupation to be protected from torture and arbitrary detention. Moreover, this decision, which has the goal of imparting a gloss of legality to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, is to be classed as State terrorism that Israel commits against Lebanese civilians through its various practices. The latter include the artillery bombardments to which they are subjected on an almost daily basis,



persistent arbitrary abductions and arrests, excruciating torture, the destruction of their homes, the confiscation of their property, their expulsion from their domiciles, the encirclement of their villages and other practices.

I am also transmitting to you a detailed schedule giving such basic information about these Lebanese civilians as the date of their arrest and their state of health, as vivid testimony to be placed before world opinion and the world Organization (see appendix).

In the light of the foregoing, we request your assistance in bringing an end to this tragedy, of whose far-reaching dimensions you learned from the mothers of the detainees at the time of your last visit to Lebanon. We are confident that you will spare no effort and leave no means untried in order to assist the detainees in whatever ways you deem appropriate and effective.

As we convey to you in advance our deep gratitude for any step you will be able to take in this matter by virtue of your position and your high personal standing, which ensures you the trust and respect of all, we ask you to accept, Sir, the expression of our sincere affection and esteem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40, 46 and 110.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter from the national Follow-up Committee for the support of
Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons addressed to the Prime
Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon

The Follow-up Committee for the support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons, anticipating your success in your great national task, is hopeful that you will give your attention to an important issue for the nation, namely that of the Lebanese hostages in Israeli prisons. The fact is that Israel is holding 183 Lebanese hostages, 140 of them in Khiyam detention camp and 43 in prisons inside Israel (at Ashkelon, Ayalon, Nafhah, etc.).

The age-range of the detainees is 14 to 75. They have been held hostage in Khiyam detention camp since 1985 without any legal grounds, without charge and without trial, and they are not allowed to engage lawyers for their defence.

Israel supervises this detention camp, and Israeli intelligence interrogates detainees before taking them to Khiyam or to Israeli prisons.

Fourteen prisoners have died under torture in the camp, and two, namely Salim Awwadah and Rida Yusuf Mustafa, have died at the American University of Beirut Hospital after their release.

Rheumatism, thalassaemia, memory loss, vision problems and stomach pains are widespread among the detainees owing to the absence of health care and because of malnutrition and defective lighting.

There are sick and wounded in the Khiyam camp. Sulayman Ramadan's foot was amputated in 1985 in an Israeli hospital because of delays in treatment, and he is now facing the threat of another amputation because the first procedure was faulty.

Israel is holding a number of juveniles in the camp, such as 14-year-old Ali Mustafa Tawbah, who is being held with his father, Mustafa Tawbah, and 15-year-old Muhammad Qazan. There are also elderly persons such as 60-year-old Ali Ghanawi, 64-year-old Muhammad Salim Qatibay and 75-year-old Hasan Muhammad Sa'id. There are four mothers, namely: Fatimah Abd al-Nabi, being held with her husband, Muhammad al-Sayyid; Samirah Sharaf al-Din; 70-year-old Al-Abdah Malikani, being held with her husband, Al-Kahl Hasan Sa'id; and Yvonne Suwaydi, also being held with her husband, Bulus Abu Zayd.

As for those abducted and taken to Israeli prisons, it must be said that removing them from the occupied area of Lebanon and bringing them to trial are in violation of articles 49 and 76 of the [fourth] Geneva Convention. Article 49 states that "Individual or mass forcible transfers [...] from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power [...] are prohibited, regardless of their motive".

Abductions are a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, and the sentences against those abducted that are handed down by Israeli military courts are illegal and inconsistent with the international standards for fair trials.

Although 19 of the prisoners at Ayalon Prison have completed their sentences, every six months Israel extends their detention. This is despite the fact that nine years have passed since some of them, such as Bilal Dakrub and Ahmad Ammar, completed their sentences.

Trials are purely pro forma, and there is no difference between those tried, those who have served their sentences and those being held without trial. All of them are hostages.

By its decision of 13 November 1997, the Supreme Court of Israel acknowledged that the Lebanese detainees are hostages and are a bargaining chip.

That Israel has enshrined hostage-taking and torture in its laws is a flagrant violation of international law and sets a precedent that is the first of its kind in the world. It has never before happened in all of history that a court of justice has sanctioned the taking of hostages. Some detainees were not tried following their abduction, and they are languishing in prisons that the International Committee of the Red Cross is forbidden to enter and are not allowed to exchange letters with their families. Examples of this are Sheikh Abd al-Karim Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani.

In the desert prison at Nafhah, Samir al-Qintar is incarcerated. He is the longest serving Lebanese prisoner in the Israeli prison system, having been placed in detention for life on 22 April 1979. He is not allowed to meet with his family or his brothers despite the fact that it is 20 years since he was first arrested. Most of the detainees endure difficult physical and mental conditions since their families are prevented from visiting them and they live in complete isolation from the world.

Dozens of Lebanese are also being held whose existence is not acknowledged and whose fate remains unknown.

The charges made against detainees can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Resistance to the Israeli occupation;
- (b) Refusal to enlist in the militias collaborating with Israel;
- (c) Refusal to pay duties and taxes;
- (d) Dealing with the Lebanese Government and providing information to the Lebanese Army;
- (e) Possession of cell phones;
- (f) Refusing Israeli assistance and the organization of tourist visits to Israel.

The issue of the Lebanese hostages in Khiyam camp and in Israeli prisons is an international humanitarian problem, and it therefore requires that the United Nations, the world's governments and Arab and international humanitarian organizations should launch an international campaign to bring pressure to bear on Israel to close Khiyam camp and to release all the Lebanese hostages being held in Israeli prisons.

APPENDIX

List of Israeli detention camps and the number of detainees in each

<u>Detention Camp</u>	<u>Number of detainees</u>
Khiam Detention Camp	140
-	
Asskalan Detention Camp (Asskalan IDC)	13
Ayloun Detention Camp (Ayloun IDC)	19
Al Sarafand Detention Camp (Al Sarafand IDC)	2
Nafha Detention Camp (Nafha IDC)	2
Shatta Detention Camp (Shatta IDC)	2
Nabluss Detention Camp (Nabluss IDC)	1
Unknown	4
Total	183

Date: 3/11/98

Hostages in Khiam Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>situation</u>	<u>Personal profession</u>	<u>condition</u>
1- Soleiman Ramadan	Baalbak	1965	17/09/85	Single	Labourer	Amputated leg
2- Ali Al Saghir	Bint Jbeil	1969	11/86	Single	Labourer	Gastric problems
3- Riad Kalakish	Dibbin	1967	02/86	Single	Labourer	Gastric problems+difficulty breathing
4- Samir Kassem	Yuhmor	1966	04/88	Single	Student	Lost an eye
5- Tayssir Sha'aban	Beit Yahoun	1958	10/86	Single	Labourer	Allergy+Ulcer
6- Mujib Turmuss	Talloussa	1972	05/08/89		Carpenter	Sick
7- Ali Hijazi	Dibbin	1961	21/08/89		Labourer	Amputated leg
8- Mustafa Arabich	Sarafand	1964	1991		Labourer	Ulcer-severe body cramp
9- Yasser Halawi	Knfarkilla		01/01/92		Carpenter	
10- Ali Halawi	Kafarkilla		01/01/92		Engineer	
11- Nehmeh Dakdouk	Aita Sha'ib	1975	06/92		Painter	Pneumo-allergic
12- Adel Kalakish	Dobbin		27/02/93		Labourer	Gastric & Cardiac problems
13- Nimr Al Ghaddaf	Dobbin		27/08/93		Soldier	
14- Ahmd Hassan	Dobbin		08/93		Soldier	Gastric Problems
15- Issam Awada	Nakoura	1975	02/02/94		Baker	Stone in kidney+disc

16- Hussein Awad	Houla	10/02/94	Labourer	Ulcer
17- Ziad Ghanwi	Houla	03/94	Student	
18- Samer Hijazi	Houla	18/03/94	Student	
19- Mohamad Nayef	Kafarkilla	04/94	Labourer	Ear infection
20- Izzat Yassin	Houla	08/93	Soldier	
21- Abdel Rahman Abboud	Houla	10/08/94	Trader	
22- Mohamad Rizk	Houla	01/01/95	Labourer	
23- Mohamad Turmuss	Talloussa	23/01/05		
24- Mahmoud Jafel	Rishaf	21/03/95		
25- Hussein Mukasher	Beit Yahoun	01/01/95	Car mechanic tech.	
26- Adham Ramal	Odeissy	09/95	Labourer	
27- Saleh Ramal	Odeissy	09/95	Labourer	
28- Abdel Hamid Yahya	Rishaf	14/11/95	Labourer	Eyes aches
29- Mustafa Sadaka	Khiam	1996	Sells cloth	
30- Mohamad Oseily	Bint Jbeil	01/01/96	Sergeant	
31- Mohamad Sha'ar	Hibberieh	04/01/96	Student	
32- Ali Kassem	Houla	19/01/96	Student	
33- Hussein Sadek	Khiam	05/96		
34- Hassan Barnkat	Rub Thalathin	07/96		
35- Bilal Kassem	Yarcin	07/96		

36- Ahmed Barakat	Rub Thalathin	07/96	Labourer
37- Ali Dibissi	Blat	01/01/96	
38- Mohamad Moussa	Blida	01/01/96	
39- Hassan Bazzi	Bint Jbeil	27/08/96	Electrical Engineer
40- Ali Ghanwi	Houla	1996	Broker
41- Khijar She'ib	Khiam	02/09/96	
42- Moussa Ataya	Teyr Hirfa	11/96	Carpenter
43- Karam Mustafa	Houla	18/03/77	Electric tech
44- Moussa Ghoson	Khiam	24/07/97	Salesman
45- Hamid Darwish	Aytaroun	01/07/97	
46- Kamal Khoreizat	Aytaroun	01/07/97	
47- Hussein Hijazi	Aytaroun	01/07/97	Labourer
48- Wajih Hijazi	Aytaroun	01/07/97	
49- Fouad Mourad	Aytaroun	01/07/97	
50- Nabil Abdalla	Taybeh	01/07/97	
51- Hassib Fakih	Aytaroun	01/07/97	Labourer
52- Knstro Baydoun	Aytaroun	01/07/97	Bakery
53- Mohamad Kawwan	Maroun Rass	08/07/97	
54- Ghassan Issa	Maroun Rass	10/07/97	
55- Haydar Issa			

56- Hassan Droubi	Khiam		01/07/97			
57- Ahmad Sadek	Khiam		01/07/97			
58- Ahmad Sheikh Ali	Khiam		01/07/97			
59- Adib Issa	Blida		01/02/97			
60- Khalil Karneeb	Maroun Rass	1970	20/07/97	Single	Farmer	Brain Concussion
61- Sleiman Karneeb	Maroun Rass	1974	24/07/97	Single	Farmer	Thalassaemic
62- Ibrahim Souid	Nakoura		01/08/97			
63- Mohamad Hariss	Aita She'ib		10/08/97			
64- Mohamad Nasser	Aita She'ib		14/08/97			
65- Hussein Akeel	Khiam		02/09/97			Lost his sight
66- Hassan Horeibi	Zawtar		02/09/97			
67- Hassan Issa	Ramieh	1976	02/09/97			
68- Abbass Aliyeh	Arnoun	1972	02/10/97			
69- Mustafa Tawbeh	Arnoun	1961	02/10/97			
70- Kassem Assaf	Arnoun	1977	02/10/97			
71- Mohamad Katbey		1940	02/10/97			
72- Ali Tawbeh	Arnoun	1983	20/10/97			
73- Mohamad Hashem	Shiba'a	1947	22/11/97			
74- Oussama Nour ElDin	Hibberieh		26/11/97			
75- Atef Hashem	Shiba'a		27/11/97			

76- Kamel Ja'afar	Ynroun	01/02/97
77- Ahmad Hammoud	Kafarkilla	01/02/97
78- Hussein Hammoud	Beit Leif	01/02/97
79- Ali Mroueh	Beit Yahoun	05/09/97
80- Nadim Saab	Shiba'a	27/11/97
81- Hussein Sheiyth	Knfarkilla	01/12/97
82- Ibrahim Sheiyth	Knfarkilla	01/12/97
83- Nabil Joma'a	Knfarkilla	10/12/97
84- Abbass Sukeini	Blat	18/12/97
85- Marwan Kana'an	Shiba'a	24/12/97
86- Akram Ba'albaki	Odeissi	25/12/97
87- Yahya Abboud	Odeissi	25/12/97
88- Bassam Ghaddar	Shiba'a	29/12/97
89- Ghandi Ayoub	Houla	10/97
90- Kheir Abdalla	Khiam	02/09/97
91- Khalil Diab	Hasbaya	03/01/98
92- Habib Ibrahim	Blidin	22/01/98
93- Ibrahim Abu Sari	Al Fardyss	23/01/98
94- Maher Hamdan	Shiba'a	03/02/98
95- Tale'e Abu Rashed	Al Fardyss	03/02/98

96- Ayman Lakiss	Al Fardysa		03/02/98		
97- Khaled Abou Sari	Al Fardysa		06/02/98		
98- Mohamad Hamdan	Shiba'a		16/02/98		Student
99- Rabah Abou Faour	Kh. Hasbia	1982	02/03/98		
100- Mohamad Kazan	Tibie	1983	16/03/98		Student
101- Mohamd Abdalla	Khiam		01/07/98		
102- Bilal Naba'a	Shiba'a		06/98		
103- Samira Sharaf El Din	Tibie	1973	02/04/98		Engaged
104- Fatmeh Abdel Nabi	Aita She'ib	1964	08/03/98		Married and the mother of 3 children
105- Mohamad Al Sayed	Aita She'ib	1963	04/02/98		Married
106- Abbass Koussan	Tibei		23/04/98		
107- Mohsin Koussan	Tibei		23/04/98		
108- Ali Kashmar	Tibei		23/04/98		
109- Mohamad Abboud	Odeissi		01/03/98		
110- Yousseff Hamoushi	Odeissi		27/05/98		
111- Nayef Gaith	Bayada	1971	27/05/98		Single Customs employee
112- Ali Aliyan	Bayada	1973	27/05/98		Married Fisherman
113- Ali Ramal	Odeissi		14/06/98		
114- Ahmad Srour	Aita She'ib		02/03/98		
115- Zeid Sriwi	Hasbia		02/01/98		

116-Ali Marmar	Tibei		25/06/98	Married	Labourer
117-Tony Assaf			20/07/98		
118-Elie Nasralla	Rmeish		20/07/98		
119-Hussein Rarnal	Odeissi		01/05/98		
120-Hussein Faraj	Bint Jbeil		01/08/98		
121-Halim Haddad	Darbet Kleiaa		01/01/98		
122-Hassan Naer	Al Fardlyss		20/02/98		
123-Malek Abboud	Odeissi		01/05/98		
124-Kassem Al Asmar	Odeissi		01/05/98		
125-Adnan Yehya	Tibei		05/02/98		
126-Bilal Abou Ta'am	Tibei		01/02/98		
127-Adib Issa	Blida		01/02/97		
128-Ibrahim Sleem			10/02/98		
129-Jamal Rahil			10/02/98		
130-Kamel Al Abdalla	Khiam		01/02/98		
131-Hassan Sa'id	Al Kassir	1928	05/09/98	Married	
132-Abdeh Malkani	Al Kassir	1933	05/09/98	Married	
133-Ghassan Said	Slima	1965	16/08/98		
134-Ali Ghazal	Arnoun	1955	07/09/98	Married	
135-Marwan Saab	Shiba'a		12/10/98		Driver

136-Raed Zein El Din	Ain Kinya	12/10/98	Barber
137-Samir Sinan	Ain Kinya	12/10/98	Soldier
138-Yousseff Hndife	Ain Kinya	15/10/98	Phone attendant
139-Bassam Na'im	Klayha	23/10/98	Driver

Hostages in

Administrative Detention in Ayloun-Ramleh Detention Camps who have served their sentences

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>sentenced to</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1- Mohamed Yassin	Majdal Siliim	1963	21/02/86	9 years	Extended administrative detention
2- Kamal Rizk	Mayss El Jabel	1971	31/08/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
3- Ali Ammar	Mayss Al Inbal	1966	01/09/86	4 years	Extended administrative detention
4- Ahmad Ammar	Mayss Al Inbal	1967	01/09/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
5- Hassan Hijazi	Mayss Al Inbal	1970	01/09/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
6- Bilal Dakroub	Tibnin	1964	17/02/86	2 and a half years	Extended administrative detention
7- Abdel Hassan Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
8- Abbass Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
9- Ahmad Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1957	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
10- Yousseff Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
11- Hussein Dakdouk	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	1 and a half years	Extended administrative detention
12- Ahmad Obeid	Jibsheel	1968	28/07/89	No Trial	Extended administrative detention
13- Hashem Fahess	Jibsheel	1967	28/07/89	No Trial	Extended administrative detention

Hostages in Askalan Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentenced to</u>	<u>Health condition</u>
1- Hassan Ankouni	Mashghara	1960	1987	Married	18 years	Osteoporesis
2- Kassem Kamasa	Kabrikha	1968	16/06/87		13 years	Osteoporesis
3- Ismail El Zein	Kabrikha		16/06/87		13 years	Need surgery
4- Anwar Yassin	Dallafo	1968	16/06/87	Single	30 years	Gonad infection
5- Mohamad Birzawi	Ba'albak	1961	05/12/87	Single	18 years	Amputated finger
6- Mustafa Hammoud	Markaba	1970	05/12/88	Single	20 years	Wounded
7- Yousseff Wazni	Tibnin	1962	15/12/88	Single	25 years	Hurt back
8- Jawad Kassfi	Sultanieh	1962	15/12/88	Married	Life sentence	Ear infection Need therapy
9- Mohamed Bdeir	Nmeirich	1972	13/06/91	Single	10 years	
10- Ali Balhass	Sidikein	1968	05/10/92	Single	Life sentence	Amputated leg
11- Imad Mahfouz	Tripoli		12/10/92			
12- Ibrahim Abu Zeid	Mleikh	1953	22/11/97	Married	No Trial	
13- Paul Abu Zeid	Mleikh	1958	22/11/97	Married	No Trial	

The 6 Lebanese citizens delivered by the "Lebanese Forces Militia" to Israel on 1990 and have been held as hostages in the Ayloun detention camp since then

<u>Name of detainees</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentence</u>
1- Ahmad Taleb	Odeissi	1966	May 1990	Single	No Trial
2- Ahmad Jalloul	Birj Barajneh	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
3- Hussein Tleiss	Brital	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
4- Hussein Rmeiti	Al Majadel	1963	May 1990	Single	No Trial
5- Ghaasan Al Dirani	Kasr Niba	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
6- Hussein Ahmad	Ghobeiri	1967	May 1990	Single	No Trial

Hostages in Srafand Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentence</u>
1- Sheikh Abdel Karim Oheid	Jibsheet		28/07/89	Married	No Trial
2- Ahmad Jalloul	Kaar Niba	1951	20/05/94	Married	No Trial

Hostages in Nafha Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentence</u>	<u>condition</u>
1- Samir Al Kintar	Obieh	1962	22/07/79	Single	4 life sentences	Suffers from asthma and has a bullet in his lungs
2- Mahmoud Hammoud	Yarine		01/07/93	Single	7 years	

Hostages in Unknown Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentence</u>
1- Khalil Ja'ara	Nabatich	1972	01/07/92	Single	4 years
2- Abdel Majid Zaytouni	Deir Kifa	1970	05/03/93	Single	
3- Ibrahim Kassem Sha'abi	Teir Hirfa				
4- Kamel Ahmad	Tripoli		1990		

Hostages in Shatta Detention Camp

<u>Name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>Social situation</u>	<u>sentence</u>
1- Kassem Faress	Nahle	1969	15/07/93	Single	7 years
2- Michael Nohra	Kleia'a		03/07/97	Married	No Trial

Hostages in Nabluss Detention Camp

<u>name of detainee</u>	<u>city/village</u>	<u>birth year</u>	<u>detained on</u>	<u>sentence</u>
1- Evon Souidi	Mleikh	1959	22/11/97	No Trial



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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 117
Pattern of conferences

Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolutions 50/206 A of 23 December 1995 and 51/211 A of 18 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide, within the resources approved for conference services in the bienniums 1996–1997 and 1998–1999, interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, taking into account the priority due to meetings included in the calendar of conferences and meetings, and to submit a report on the implementation of those decisions to the General Assembly, respectively, at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions through the Committee on Conferences. The Committee fulfilled its reporting requirement through its annual reports to the Assembly.

2. Moreover, in section A, paragraph 9, of its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly decided to include all necessary resources in the budget for the biennium 1998–1999 to provide interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Committee on Conferences, a report on the implementation of that decision. At its 411th meeting, on 3 September 1998, the Committee considered an oral report on the matter covering the period from January 1998 through end-June 1998 for meetings of this nature at Geneva, and for the period from end-June 1997 to end-June 1998 for similar meetings at New York.

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraphs 30 and 31 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998, and, as decided, includes the period covered in the oral report as well as updated information from July 1998 to January 1999. The report on the implementation of the decision in paragraph 28 of the same resolution



will contain statistics of such meetings from February 1999 onwards and will be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Committee on Conferences.

4. The General Assembly has mandated the Secretariat to make provision in its requests for resources for the servicing of such groups, while at the same time maintaining its decision that services should be provided on an as available basis, that is, without any servicing capacity being specifically allocated for that purpose.

5. The manner in which the Secretariat has addressed these mandates has derived from the actual practice of calendar bodies. Every biennium, several hundred meetings are planned for in its capacity requirements and eventually scheduled. Cancellations of calendar body meetings bring down the number of meetings actually held, thus freeing capacity to service regional and other major groupings.

II. Data

6. For the six-month period from January through the end of June 1998, all but one of the 29 requests for the provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings were met at Geneva, for a total of 97 per cent. For the period from July 1998 through January 1999, all of the 15 requests for facilities and services were met.

7. With regard to New York, during the period from end-June 1997 to end-June 1998, 100 per cent of the 535 requests for facilities only were met. As to the provision of interpretation services, 283 out of 348 requests were met, or a total of 81 per cent. As in the past, services were not provided largely because of the unavailability of interpretation teams. A case in point is the week of 22 to 26 June 1998, when five of the six requests for services for regional groups could not be granted. Two factors account for the high percentage of refusals during that period. First, few meetings were cancelled; secondly, the Committee for Programme and Coordination requested six additional meetings. As a result, 11 intergovernmental bodies in addition to the five regional groups in question could not be serviced.

8. During the period from July 1998 to January 1999, 100 per cent of the 399 requests for facilities only were met. As to the provision of interpretation services, 151 out of 169 requests were met, or 89 per cent. A significant week during this period was 21 to 25 September 1998, when only three requests for interpretation services could not be granted of a total of 26. The Group of 77 and China had 10 meetings that week, out of which seven were provided with interpretation services. Another period in question is the week of 2 to 6 November 1998, when four out of five requests for interpretation services were not granted. This was a peak period during the main part of the General Assembly session, when 78 meetings with interpretation were serviced.

9. A comparative table of statistics for the three reporting periods follows:

	Interpretation services			Conference facilities	
	Requested	Provided	Not provided	Requested	Provided
July 1996-June 1997	125	85	40	408	407
July 1997-June 1998	348	283	65	535	535
July 1998-January 1999	169	151	18	399	399

10. Noting the importance of providing services and facilities to regional and other major groupings of Member States, the Secretaries of intergovernmental bodies have been increasingly responsive about advising the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services in advance of cancellations, thus making it possible to reassign services and to take the information into account when planning the weekly schedule. This is largely due to the emphasis placed at the active dialogue sessions on the necessity to keep conference services informed as early as possible of cancellations. The Planning and Meetings Servicing Section has, whenever possible, suggested alternate dates on which it seemed more likely that services would be available. At Headquarters, the possibility of providing conference services to regional and other major groupings of Member States depends clearly on available capacity, which is a reflection of meeting activity on the part of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies that are entitled to receive such services on a priority basis.



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Pattern of conferences

Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Report of the Secretary-General

A. Background

1. In paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 52/214 A of 22 December 1997, on the pattern of conferences, the General Assembly noted with concern the underutilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), called for better utilization of conference facilities at that Office, and encouraged all the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Commission on Human Settlements and other United Nations bodies to hold their meetings in Nairobi to the extent possible. In paragraph 15 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assist the aforementioned bodies in improving that situation and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Committee on Conferences, on the actions taken to that end.

2. At its organizational session for 1998, held on 14 April 1998, the Committee on Conferences agreed to receive an oral report on this question. Accordingly, at the Committee's substantive session, held from 1 to 9 September 1998, the Secretariat reported orally on the utilization of conference facilities at UNON. During a video-conference arranged for the Committee in conjunction with its substantive session, members also consulted conference services officers at UNON. The Committee on Conferences considered the question on 3 September 1998, and recorded its conclusions

and recommendations in paragraphs 48 to 51 of its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.¹

3. The Fifth Committee took up the item on the pattern of conferences, and the report of the Committee on Conferences, on 19 October 1998. In his introductory statement to the Fifth Committee on the item, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services referred to the efforts made by the Secretariat to ensure that the potential for conference servicing in Nairobi was fully realized and drew attention to the relevant conclusions of the Committee on Conferences.

4. The Fifth Committee concluded its consideration of the item on the pattern of conferences with the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.24, subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1998 as resolution 53/208. Paragraphs 17 to 22 of section A of the resolution deal with the utilization of conference facilities at Nairobi. In paragraph 30 of section A, the Assembly deeply regretted that the reports requested in paragraph 15 of resolution 52/214 A had not been submitted to it, noting that they had been presented only in an oral form to the Committee on Conferences. In paragraph 31, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit the reports before 31 March 1999, and decided, "without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 8 (a) of its resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995, that an oral report cannot substitute for a report



requested by the General Assembly". When the draft resolution was introduced in the Fifth Committee on 14 December 1998, it was stated that the written report on the utilization of conference facilities at Nairobi should be an update of the oral presentation made to the Committee on Conferences. The present report has been issued pursuant to that request.

B. Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

5. To discuss the "underutilization" of conference facilities in Nairobi, it is important to clarify what is meant by this term, and to differentiate clearly between "utilization factor" and "utilization rate", two concepts used in the management of conference services and on which the Secretariat reports regularly to the Committee on Conferences.

6. The "utilization factor" relates to the use by a given body of the conference-servicing resources, and more specifically the meeting time and associated services, allocated to it according to its plans for a session. For example, if a body plans a two-week session, it is normally allocated 20 three-hour meetings with services. Cancellation of meetings, late starts and early endings affect the utilization factor, which is the proportion of the meeting time allocated to a body that it actually uses. Applying a formula that includes these and other elements, the Secretariat reports every year to the Committee on Conferences on the utilization factor of a sample of intergovernmental bodies. The latest such report appeared in document A/AC.172/1998/3. On the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences, the General Assembly established 80 per cent as the benchmark figure for the utilization factor (resolution 48/222 A, para. 6).

7. Even allowing for some inaccuracy because record-keeping for this purpose at UNON was still not complete at the time, for the last reported period (1997) the Nairobi-based bodies showed very high utilization factors (100 per cent or close).

8. The "utilization rate" applies not to bodies but to physical facilities at conference centres and could be defined as the occupancy rate of conference rooms. It is simply the number of meetings held at a location expressed as a percentage of a notional maximum capacity. With a standard capacity of two meetings per room per working day, the notional maximum for a one-room facility would be 500

meetings per year. The utilization rate is the actual occupancy as a percentage of that figure.

9. It is worth noting that underutilization of physical facilities does not necessarily imply underutilization of permanent servicing capacity, understood as the number of meetings that can be serviced with the staff resources based at the duty station. With the exception of New York, all headquarters duty stations show some underutilization of physical facilities. However, permanent staff resources are set below the requirements of the average meetings programme at each duty station, and are not linked to the number of conference rooms. In most cases, increased utilization rates would bring about a need for additional staff resources.

10. At UNON, there are two large conference rooms (full membership capacity) with simultaneous interpretation equipment for up to eight languages; two medium-sized rooms with sound facilities for four languages that can be combined into a third large room with an eight-language capacity; three small rooms with two-language systems; and another small room with no interpretation equipment.

11. On the basis of the formula indicated above, the notional maximum capacity of the UNON conference centre is 4,000 meetings per year. In 1994, 182 official and unofficial meetings were held at UNON, resulting in an overall utilization rate of 4.55 per cent. However, since this calculation includes inter-agency, intra-Secretariat and non-United Nations meetings, the result may not be entirely relevant to the use of UNON as a United Nations conference centre.

12. Including only the three rooms with full language facilities, the notional capacity at UNON is 1,500 meetings per year. Of the meetings held in 1994 at the duty station, some 60 were meetings of United Nations bodies, intergovernmental or expert. Using these figures, the overall utilization rate for that year drops to 4 per cent.

13. By 1997, the number of meetings had increased to 166 (11 per cent utilization rate). The figure for 1998 was 140 meetings (9.33 per cent). Both these figures include meetings of established United Nations bodies, funded from the regular budget (84 in 1997, 18 in 1998), and United Nations-related and other intergovernmental and expert meetings provided with services on a reimbursable basis (82 in 1997, 122 in 1998).

14. It is relevant to point out here that there are only two United Nations bodies, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of UNEP, that have Nairobi as their headquarters. These organs do not have a

very heavy meetings schedule: they hold regular sessions biennially (although the Governing Council of UNEP has been having special sessions in the intervening years), and only the Governing Council has an established subsidiary, the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, which holds an annual three- or four-day meeting. In all, these bodies may hold no more than 80 to 100 meetings per biennium.

15. Furthermore, owing to the fact that both the Commission and the Governing Council hold their biennial sessions in the same year, the demand for services for established bodies, financed from the regular budget, fluctuates markedly from year to year. For example, in 1997 the Commission held pre-session consultations and a regular session, and the Governing Council had its regular session and a resumed session, contributing to a total of 84 regular body meetings for the year. In 1998, on the other hand, the regular body meetings were limited to a three-day special session of the Governing Council and a three-day meeting of its High-level Committee, and the total number of regular budget meetings for the year was 18.

16. This, then, is a case where strict observance of the headquarters rule by locally based bodies, as often requested by the General Assembly, has little effect on the utilization rates. It is a fact that the substantive headquarters of United Nations organs are not distributed evenly among United Nations conference centres, and their distribution is not closely related to the physical capacity of the duty stations. So it may not be unjustified to wonder whether the situation at underutilized conference centres is one of underutilization or of excess physical capacity. (Again it is important to note here that this observation applies only to conference room capacity, since staff resources are adjusted to actual demand.)

17. However, as long as there is one United Nations body based at a location, the Secretariat must ensure adequate facilities for its meetings, no matter how infrequent these may be. In addition, even though this may never have been explicitly legislated in this manner, every United Nations location defined as an established headquarters, that is, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, is equipped to accommodate a full United Nations conference.

C. Action taken to improve utilization

18. The General Assembly's reference, in paragraph 14 of resolution 52/214 A, to "subsidiary bodies" of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Commission on Human Settlements has been interpreted by the Secretariat in a

general sense that goes beyond the narrow definition of bodies established by and reporting to a parent organ. It is assumed to extend in this case to treaty bodies that deal with related fields, such as the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Multilateral Ozone Fund, which are based in Montreal, Canada, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, which is located in Basel, Switzerland, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is headquartered in Bonn, and the Ozone Secretariat, which is located in Nairobi.

19. Some of the meetings held under these treaties take place at the respective base; many others are hosted by States parties. For example, in the second half of 1998, three meetings related to biodiversity were scheduled to take place in Montreal, while the Ozone Secretariat had planned four meetings in Geneva and four in Cairo. Conference services for all of these meetings were provided, on a reimbursable basis, by UNON. Pre-session documentation is processed in Nairobi, in-session translation is done remotely from Nairobi, and UNON arranges for the recruitment of interpreters. Under reimbursable servicing arrangements, Conference Services at UNON serviced 11 sessions of environment-related treaty bodies at other locations in 1998. So, while conference rooms in Nairobi may not be in constant use, UNON servicing capacity is fully employed.

20. It is the meetings of these and other environment-related bodies that, in the first instance, the Secretariat has been trying to attract to Nairobi. The recent increase in the number of extrabudgetary (reimbursable) meetings being held in Nairobi attests to the measurable success of UNON efforts in this regard.

21. In paragraph 14 of resolution 52/214 A, the General Assembly mentions "other United Nations bodies". It is assumed that this refers to bodies that currently do meet regularly or occasionally away from their established headquarters and thus could meet in Nairobi without unbalancing the utilization of conference facilities somewhere else. These could be, among others, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the International Civil Service Commission, several subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, such as those on international cooperation in tax matters, on geographical names, on public administration and finance, on international statistical programmes and coordination and on development policy, and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Committee on Conferences, a body that monitors conference-servicing standards and performance Secretariat-

wide, could well be justified in meeting at UNON. It is, of course, up to these bodies to consider the Assembly's call.

22. The Secretary-General visited Nairobi in May 1998 and called upon all concerned to enhance the status of UNON as a full-fledged United Nations headquarters. His statement and his interest have motivated the staff at UNON to intensify their efforts to ensure services of the highest quality for events in Nairobi and to seek ways to realize his commitment. The Director-General of UNON has made it his mandate to strengthen the Office as a United Nations headquarters and enhance its role in the intergovernmental system.

23. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services visited UNON in June 1998 and held extensive discussions with the Director-General, with administration and conference services officials, and with heads of the secretariats of United Nations and other Nairobi-based bodies, on possible ways of expanding the provision of conference services in Nairobi.

24. Conference facilities and services at UNON are being continuously modernized and upgraded. Conference rooms are being equipped with advanced technological devices, such as screens to show the speaker in the front of the room, liquid crystal display projectors to view charts or maps or even allow for on-screen drafting, and e-mail connections to delegation tables. Excessive vacancy rates in translation and editorial services are being addressed with the assistance of other duty stations, and the managed assignment system envisioned by the Office of Human Resources Management is expected to alleviate the difficulties. The printing plant and documents distribution system at UNON are capable of meeting the normal needs of any United Nations meeting.

25. However, there is no permanent interpretation capacity at UNON. For meetings there, staff interpreters have to be deployed from New York, Geneva and Vienna or freelance interpreters have to be recruited from around the world, which involves payment of travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance and increases the cost of meetings in Nairobi. While this can be seen as an impediment to increasing the meetings programme in Nairobi, it is part of a vicious cycle. Current demand at UNON does not justify the cost of establishing a permanent team of interpreters there because they would be employed in Nairobi only for a relatively small number of days in the year. In order for the team to remain productive, the interpreters would have to be assigned for a good part of the time to New York, Geneva or Vienna, with the associated expenditures on travel and subsistence allowance. In fact, until the schedule of meetings

at UNON becomes considerably heavier, the current practice is the most cost-effective alternative.

26. The lack of a permanent interpretation capacity at UNON, and the resulting cost of meetings there, is often quoted, at least by the secretariats of treaty bodies that have been contacted, as a reason not to meet in Nairobi. Over the last few months, the Secretariat has been hopeful that this argument can be countered with a technologically advanced and cost-effective solution: remote interpretation from another duty station. A pilot test of remote interpretation in real-life conditions, conducted earlier this year between Geneva and Vienna, has paved the way for further technical and organizational refinements that may make this method a viable complement to on-site interpretation. If such is the case, UNON and other headquarters duty stations could be equipped to provide and receive remote interpretation. While the usage of conference facilities at Nairobi remained low, UNON would be a receiver of such services; if circumstances change, it could become a provider.

D. Conclusions and proposed actions

27. At this point, the following actions are to be taken:

(a) **The Secretariat will continue to do everything within its reach to offer the best possible conference facilities and services at UNON;**

(b) **As requested in paragraphs 19 and 20 of resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998, it will explore the possibility of establishing a permanent interpretation service at UNON and examine the provision of interpretation services to other locations from permanent interpretation structures based in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi;**

(c) **It will continue to invite environment-related treaty bodies to meet at UNON and, as appropriate, will draw the attention of United Nations bodies and regional and other major groupings of Member States to the provisions of paragraph 21 of resolution 53/208 A.**

28. The present report should not close without stating an unavoidable conclusion: **UNON is an efficient and up-to-date conference centre. Interpretation services are provided whenever needed, even in the absence of a permanent interpretation capacity. The utilization of the conference facilities at Nairobi can increase if the members of intergovernmental and expert bodies that could meet there take the decision to do so. The General Assembly's invitation in resolutions 52/214 A and**

53/208 A and the Secretary-General's call are addressed also, and mainly, to them.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/53/32).*



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 155
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 12 February 1999 from the Permanent
Representative of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to refer to the letter dated 11 January 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the Secretary-General.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon once again makes a series of misleading statements calculated to deceive Member States as to the existing state of affairs. These false charges by Lebanon completely ignore Lebanon's legal responsibility for the situation.

The fundamental cause of the situation is the continuing activities of terrorist organizations, like Hizbullah, which commit acts of aggression against Israel with the tolerance, and at times even the encouragement, of the Lebanese Government. Lebanon has a clear duty in regard to international law and under the Charter of the United Nations not to allow its territory to be a base for attacks on Israel, to disarm these groups and to cease all aid and encouragement to them.

As a result of Lebanon's failure to fulfil these responsibilities, Israel is compelled to take defensive measures against these terrorist activities, which are not only supported by Lebanon but directly aided, financially and otherwise, by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As long as Lebanon illegally supports unprovoked and relentless terrorist attacks against Israel from its territory, it does not come to the United Nations with clean hands. Lebanon should prevent the terror emanating from its territory, and withdraw its refusal to return to the negotiating table with Israel.



Israel has repeatedly stated its willingness to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in its entirety. In that resolution, the Council did not call only for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, but also for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the Lebanese Government's effective authority in the area. Lebanon's continued readiness to allow terrorist operations from its soil is totally incompatible with these last two provisions of the resolution. Israel reiterates again its willingness to implement Council resolution 425 (1978) and calls upon the Government of Lebanon to cooperate with Israel in order to restore peace and security along their common border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Dore GOLD
Permanent Representative
